Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 044674

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TAGS: PFOR, VS

SUBJECT: RELATIONS WITH VIET-NAM

1. AP CARRIED STORY FEBRUARY 2 ATTRIBUTED TO BANGKOK WHICH SAID IN PART: "US SOURCES HERE SAY THE RETURN OF THE BODIES OF THE LAST TWO AMERICAN SERVICEMEN KILLED IN THE INDOCHINA WAR WILL PROBABLY THE LAST HELP THE UNITED STATES WILL GET FROM VIET-NAM IN ITS SEARCH FOR THE MISSING AND DEAD UNLESS WASHINGTON CHANGES ITS POLICY TOWARDS HANOI " AN "OFFICIAL US SOURCE" IS QUOTED AS SAYING "THEY WON'T GO ON FOREVER WITH THESE GESTURES. THIS WILL PROBABLY BE THE LAST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 044674

ONE UNLESS WASHINGTON COMES UP WITH SOMETHING IN RETURN." "SOURCES AND OBSERVERS SAY THAT AT PRESENT THE U.S.

VIETNAMESE 'BALANCE SHEET' IS ONE-SIDED." THE ARTICLE ALSO NOTES THAT "WASHINGTON'S ONLY CONCRETE MOVE TO DATE IN BUILDING VIETNAMESE - U.S. RELATIONS, THE SOURCES SAY, HAS BEEN TO EASE RESTRICTIONS ON THE SENDING OF CERTAIN HUMANITARIAN AID ITEMS TO VIET-NAM FROM THE UNITED STATES. A TRADE AND TRAVEL EMBARGO IS STILL IN EFFECT."

2. WE DO NOT KNOW IF ATTRIBUTION OF THESE STATEMENTS IS CORRECT, BUT IT IS IN ANY CASE UNFORTUNATE. FYI: SINCE FALL OF SAIGON, USG HAS APPROVED LICENSES FOR OVER 2,700,000 DOLS OF PRIVATE AMERICAN ASSISTANCE TO BE SHIPPED TO

VIET-NAM. CONSIDERING MAGNITUDE OF MIA PROBLEM AND CONTINUED INABILITY OF SOME AMERICAN CITIZENS TO DEPART SAIGON, VIETNAMESE GESTURES SO FAR APPEAR TO BE MODEST INDEED AND OUR RESPONSE TO THEM MORE THAN APPROPRIATE. OUR CURRENT POLICY REMAINS AS ARTICULATED IN SECRETARY'S SPEECH TO ECONOMIC CLUB OF DETROIT ON NOVEMBER 24 AND IN THE PRESIDENT'S HONOLULU SPEECH DECEMBER 7. KISSINGER

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